



Benchmarks

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Dr. Maurice Leatherbury, Director of Academic Computing Services, continues to provide updates on campus computing. If you are a student, faculty or staff member at UNT, make sure and read this article.

[Time to Renew Your PRAS Account](#)

Premium Remote Access Service renewal for both summer sessions is now underway. You can ensure uninterrupted service by renewing your subscription now.

What's PRAS? Why wasn't I notified personally? Can I get ISDN service? If you have questions like these, this article is for you.

[Faculty Learn to Distribute Learning](#)

The new Distributed Learning Curriculum offered to faculty this spring by UNT's Interactive Learning Team was a great success. Another session will be offered the week of May 18th. Read this article to find out the details.

[1996 CRSP Data, Eventus Installed on Sol](#)

If you use Sol to analyze CRSP data, you should like the contents of this article.

Cyrus IMAP E-Mail Server Evaluation

This article compares the two most popular and widely used IMAP server implementations, the Cyrus and the UW IMAP servers. If you are interested in the status of student E-Mail at UNT, this article will give you a glimpse of the issues associated with implementing and maintaining such a system.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

Filtering your E-Mail

When I go through the contents of my U.S. mailbox at home, an automatic process kicks in. Once the magazines and catalogs are to one side, the task is to sort the rest of my mail in a categorical and hierarchical order, so that reading the mail becomes an easy and, sometimes equally automatic, procedure. The first pile is reserved for communications from family and friends. The second pile is for the very infrequent occasions when someone actually sends me money. The third is the pile of bills for which I have to send somebody money. The fourth pile contains recognizable mailings from businesses with which I have some sort of dealing. The fifth pile is reserved for mildly interesting junk mail that I might open and evaluate. The sixth pile is for the junk mail that will find its way to the recycling bin without so much as a peek at the contents. Of course, if piles one through five happen to be empty that day, reading mail is easy -- one toss and I'm done.

E-mail can sometimes need as much sorting as the traditional paper kind. If you are a frequent E-mail user like me, there is some mail that you want to notice and read right away. Some E-mail is best left for future examination, and some you wish you'd never received in the first place. Luckily, most E-mail programs have a mail filtering facility that helps you sort your E-mail. Unlike dealing with postal mail, E-mail filtering can sort your mail for you automatically, based upon your selected criteria, with no need for your manual intervention.

How Filters Work

There are a couple of different filtering methods used by E-mail programs. Some, like Novell's GroupWise will actually place your mail in separate folders depending upon the criteria you select. Other programs, like Esys' Simeon, will change the way messages are sorted and displayed within a mail folder. Both methods have advantages and disadvantages, but in the end can be equally effective in helping you organize incoming mail.

The concept behind mail filtering is that you use some parameter of the E-mail header to determine where that particular piece of mail will be filed. The header is the part of the E-mail that contains the to and from address information, the E-mail subject line, and other information such as the date the E-mail was sent and delivered. For example, if you frequently receive mail from a person named Fred, you could filter Fred's mail into a particular folder or group by telling your E-mail program to look for Fred's address as part of the from address. If you wanted your replies to Fred to be placed with the incoming messages, you could tell your E-mail program to look for Fred's address as the destination also.

Filters have a number of uses beyond just identifying mail from individuals. If you subscribe to E-mail mailing lists, filters can be useful for segregating your mailing list mail from the rest of your mail. If you frequently receive junk E-mail from a particular site or address, you can filter that mail to one location and throw it away with just one operation.

More Information about Filters

In Esys' Simeon program (the student E-mail program at UNT), mail filters are called Message Groups. You can create a new Message Group by selecting "New/Message Group" from the programs File menu (the message group will be created in whatever folder you currently have selected, usually the Inbox). For information about setting up Simeon Message Groups see the applicable section in the [Getting Started with Simeon](http://simeon.acs.unt.edu/simeondoc/simeonstart.html#GROUPS) document, available on the World Wide Web at:

<http://simeon.acs.unt.edu/simeondoc/simeonstart.html#GROUPS>

You can also read more about Message Groups in the Simeon users guides found on the [Simeon Documentation Page](http://simeon.acs.unt.edu/simeondoc/) (<http://simeon.acs.unt.edu/simeondoc/>) as PDF format files.

Novell's GroupWise implements filters as part of its Rules facility. Consult the GroupWise Help file for more information about setting up a mail filtering rule.

A previous version of this column talked about mail filtering in Pegasus Mail and for UNIX-based mail systems. See the [September/October 1994](#) issue of *Benchmarks NewsJournal* and find the [Network Connections](#) article to read more about mail filtering on those systems.

E-mail filters are one feature that should not be overlooked if you receive and send multiple messages a day. Filters can make the process of reading E-mail much easier and more efficient. With a little imagination and experimentation, you can have your E-mail sorted and ready to read as soon as you run your E-mail program.

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List of the Month

Each month we highlight one Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list.

The Online Courses Newsletter

The Online Courses Newsletter is a free one-way E-mail distribution list offering information on new and existing online courses available on the Internet.

The owner promises to "search the Internet looking for the best online courses available now and online education organizations will update their online courses information in the Online Courses Newsletter. So, when students subscribe to the free Online Courses Newsletter, they will keep updated about the courses available online on the Internet, without having to spend a lot of time and money searching by themselves."

The first issue is scheduled for May 1998.

The newsletter has already over 100 subscribers. For joining details see:

<http://www.geocities.com/Eureka/Plaza/1697/online.html>

Owner: Eduardo Peirano emapey@adinet.com.uy n

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By [Mark Wilcox](#), Campus Web Administrator

The next 6 months . . .

What can you expect from your Central Web Support team in the next 6 months? A lot, I hope. If we do it right, you won't even know that we did it, but below are some hints as to what we have in the works.

A standard ID and password scheme for restricted access Web sites

First we have begun to implement a standard ID and password scheme for restricted access Web sites. The current scheme uses your UNT ID number as your User-ID and your capital first letter of your last name plus the last four digits of your UNT ID as your password. The system is now being used by the UNT Libraries to protect some of their CD-ROMs. This isn't meant to inconvenience you, but instead to actually help you. Some of the software we have can only be used by UNT clients. It is too limiting to just say that anyone from a UNT network can use the system because many of you access our site from third party ISPs. Instead of forcing you to use us as your ISP, we enable you to choose whomever you want, and still you can "get to the library." This system, hopefully, will be stable and will start to be accepted as a standard around campus Web sites that need the same kind of service.

Distance Learning

As you may have heard, we are now really promoting distance learning over the Internet. To help in that regard, we will be installing a packaged system that will make it -- we hope -- easier for everyone involved to participate. The system shouldn't limit the professor in terms of the types of content that they want to place on-line but will instead help by allowing students to participate with a standard interface. Some of the options available will be student tracking (so you can see when Johnny came to class), homework uploading, note taking that is stored on-line (and protected) and on-line chat rooms for class discussion.

Updated software and hardware

We hope to unveil two updated systems as well. We have purchased Allaire Forums to use as a replacement for our aging Web Conferencing System. Forums is a type of software that enables you to post messages to a discussion group with only a Web browser. Forums allows restricted access, HTML tagging, searching and E-mail notification. The other update we intend is to upgrade our search engine to the Netscape Compass server, which is highly regarded in the Internet trade press.

Finally, last but not least, we hope to upgrade our server to a much more powerful machine which should improve the performance of the central UNT servers.

Until next time.

Mark

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Editor*

We are continuing to work on the ACS Short Course schedule for the summer sessions. It should be published in the next several weeks. There are still some courses remaining through the Human Resources Department this semester that may be of interest to the campus community (the instructors are taking June off but will resume teaching again in July). Because these courses are offered in the Eagle Student Services Center (ESSC) Lab, UNT *students* can also attend the classes. To register for a class, contact [Human Resources](#) Training & Development division (940-565-4246). The courses offered are as follows:

- **Introduction to Word97 - The Basics.** Learn the basics of Word97 -- create a document, cut and paste, use the toolbars, spell check, grammar check, save and print. Bring samples of your own work to do in the second half of the class for practice.

Tuesday, May 26, 2-5 p.m. ESSC 152.

- **Introduction to Excel 97 - The Basics.** Learn the basics of creating an Excel spreadsheet -- create a payroll spreadsheet, calculate the monthly salaries, keep a summary sheet, format the spreadsheet, save and print it. Bring your own work to do in the second half of the class for practice.

Tuesday, May 19, 2-5 p.m. ESSC 152.

- **Advanced Word97 - MailMerge it Together.** Now that you understand how to use the basics of Word (a prerequisite for this class!!), learn how to create form letters, labels, envelopes and catalog lists with lists of names created in Word, in Excel, or in Access. We'll "Merge it Together" with each program.

Wednesday, May 13, 2-5 p.m. ESSC 152.

The ACS Short Course [schedule](#) for spring 1998 can be reviewed to see the sorts of courses that will be offered in the summer.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

Staff and faculty members can also take courses through the [Human Resources](#) Department. A new [Distributed Learning Curriculum](#) is being offered especially to Faculty Members. Topics include Windows 95, PowerPoint, Basic Video Conferencing, Multimedia, and a series of classes concerning the World Wide

Web. The article [Faculty Learn to Distribute Learning](#) in this issue of **Benchmarks *Online*** discusses some upcoming classes offered by the Interactive Learning Team this semester.

Alternate Forms of Training

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered.

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IRC News

Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary



IRC Regular Voting Members: Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Walter Bowen, Academic Administration; Bill Buntain, Communications Program Group; Carolyn Cunningham, Student Affairs; Paul Dworak, College of Music; Steve Grant, UNT Health Science Center; Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, Administrative Program Group; Mike Kozak, Faculty Senate; Allen Livingston, Student Association; Steve Miller, Human Resources; Dennis Mueller, Research Program Group; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Jim Poirot, College of Education; Don Schol, School of Visual Arts; Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Neal Tate, University Planning Council; Philip Turner, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs for Distance Education and Dean of the School of Library and Information Resources (Chair, IRC); Virginia Wheelless, Chancellor; John Windsor, College of Business. **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Richard Harris, Computing Center; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary); Rondel Stevens, Telecommunications.

March 10, 1998

Desktop Software Applications Guidelines

The Chair reported that he and Richard Harris met with the IR Steering committee where they reported the IRC approval of the "Desktop Software Applications Guidelines." There was some discussion about putting the guidelines in the Faculty Handbook. The committee also discussed the Faculty Senate Resolution and agreed to monitor the situation. It was also reported to the Steering committee that Paul Dworak, with the Standards & Cooperation Program Group, agreed to draft a response to the Faculty Senate resolution.

Paul Dworak distributed a draft of a response to the Faculty Senate Resolution. He invited comments from IRC members prior to the next IRC meeting so that a final document can be presented for approval at the April IRC meeting. Paul commented that communication seems to be a key concern of the Faculty Senate and he suggested that department and college computer user groups are one way to improve communication. Discussion followed.

Paul Dworak suggested that IRC members provide input to him; that the ideas be taken to the April meeting of the Faculty Senate meeting, and input from that meeting be considered in preparing a final statement for the IRC's April meeting.

Administration Program Group

Coy Hoggard reported for the Administration Program Group that the committee has met and discussed expansion of the capacity and support for HOSTPRINT services, which allows printing of mainframe files on LAN-attached printers and which is being driven by an increased need for more host printers for the DARS project. He added that host printers can also be used to print NOBIS reports. The committee plans to try and determine the actual

demand by meeting with the Distributed Computing Support Management Team as well as the Deans. Coy asked IRC members to provide input about this issue directly to their network managers. As an alternative, they could provide this information either to him or Joneel Harris.

Distributed Learning

The Chair introduced Patrick Pluscht, who is the IRC's Distributed Learning Team representative, and asked him to make a report. Patrick distributed copies of a Journal article concerning Distributed Learning and pointed out that UNT is working toward being ready for distributed learning. Patrick announced that administrative approval has been given to establish a Center for Distributed Learning. In addition, four new full-time and seven new part-time positions have been approved, pending final budget approval by the Board of Regents. A space request has been submitted to provide a place for the Center. Dr. Turner added that the whole purpose of the Center is to bring together all the resources the University already has in place to provide faculty with a single point of contact for distributed learning. It was explained that funding for the center and the positions will most likely come from student fees. They hope to go public with the Center some time in the summer.

In response to a question from Carolyn Cunningham regarding someone who will be working out the administrative problems of tuition and fees for distributed learning courses, Dr. Turner replied that the position they had requested for that purpose was cut from the budget. He anticipates that the Administrative Assistant position will have to deal with those issues. Turner stated that he recognizes the importance of the administration of fees and fee structure for distributed learning courses.

Maurice Leatherbury commented that Academic Computing will be supporting the Center for Distributed Learning through its Web hosting services and will assign a liaison to work closely with the Center. The new Center will relieve his staff from doing some of the consulting they have been doing. He stated that his staff will not be moving into the new Center.

The Chair stressed the importance of all facets of distributed learning working together to make it work.

April 21, 1998

IR Steering Committee

The Chair reported having met with the IR Steering Committee at which time the IRC's response to the Faculty Senate resolution on computing resources was discussed. The vice presidents asked that the IRC's response, when finalized, be made directly to the IR Steering Committee.

DCSMT

Maurice Leatherbury reported that the DCSMT has been evaluating virus scanning protection software packages, since the one currently being used is not completely satisfactory. One they have looked at is the MacAfee product, another is from Symantec. They are consulting with Command Software, as well, who is the current provider of virus software.

In addition, Maurice reported that the DCSMT is also looking at Web course management

systems in order to create a shell for Web course delivery and keep track of student progress through a Web course, testing, E-Mail, etc. They will be looking at two products; one called WebCT from University of British Columbia; and TopClass which is from a commercial company. Their hope is to have a product available before the end of summer, to provide one alternative for developing Web courses. Maurice explained that these software products are totally server based and integrate well with FrontPage software.

Instruction Program Group

Don Schol reported for the Instruction Program Group and distributed a draft of a "General Classroom Technology Access Policy." He explained that the document is a starting point for assignment of responsibility and/or liability to individuals or groups of individuals who use designated classrooms equipped with various levels of instructional technology. He pointed out that the policy will be re-evaluated periodically and revised accordingly. There was some discussion during which several revisions were made to the document. During discussion, the point was made that network connection should be provided in all classrooms so that even if instructional technology equipment is not already in a classroom, portable units can be brought in and used. It was pointed out that the particular policy being presented speaks to the issue of access and responsibility for technological equipment in classrooms and is not a recommendation of how classrooms should be equipped. It was requested that the policy be more specific as to what type of classrooms are covered by this policy. Don asked that further suggestions be emailed to him; the Program Group will revise the document, post it to its Web site, and present it for a second reading at the May IRC meeting.

Administrative Program Group

Joneel Harris reported for the Administrative Program Group that at their last meeting IBM presented their latest opportunities for higher education expansion and development. The Program Group also discussed the SNA Gateway and HOSTPRINT and reported that gateway access is being expanded by adding a third gateway. It is hoped that HOSTPRINT will be used on a test basis at the next registration. Coy Hoggard reported that a mainframe operating system upgrade is planned for May 23-24, 1998, and should not affect the academic mainframe but will affect central printing services temporarily. Joneel said that another issue of importance to the Administrative Program Group is the Year 2000 problem. She said that some components in the Voice Response System are not Year 2000 compliant and the vendor may not be bringing them into compliance. She urged members to look at their own systems to make sure they are Year 2000 compliant.

Standards & Cooperation Program Group

Paul Dworak reported for the Standards & Cooperation Program Group and distributed a revised Statement of Principles On Computer Technical Support, which he presented to the IRC for approval as its response to the Faculty Senate Resolution. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken and the statement was approved.

Paul Dworak also distributed a recommendation from the S&C Program Group on the use of Everyone Mail, as a starting point for discussion on the subject. Paul explained that in the face of the increasing use of Everyone Mail the Program Group feels there need to be some limitations and controls put into effect. He asked that members call or email him with their comments.

Intellectual Property Rights

Patrick Pluscht asked Maurice Leatherbury to report on the issue of intellectual property rights, for example, the courseware developed on the Web. Maurice has asked Michelle Allen to review what Univ. Of Houston has done on this issue and draft an agreement form clarifying ownership of UNT Web-developed courseware. The Chair pointed out that there is a bill going through Congress now that, if passed, will take away a lot of teachers' rights to intellectual property. Turner said he would provide the Bill number if anyone is interested in looking at this issue further.

Patrick also commented that the Center for Distributed Learning needs space to set up its staff together, and also needs furniture for the staff. He asked that if anyone has equipment or furniture to give away to let him know. n

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.n

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Staff Activities

Transitions

The following are new employees:

- **Craig Terrell** has joined Network and Microcomputer Support in the Campus-Wide Networks division.
- **Kevin Joiner** has joined Academic Computing Services as a part-time microcomputer consultant.

Moving on:

- **Mike Murdock**, longtime Computing Center employee, most recently on the General Data Systems Team, has taken a job with Greyhound in Dallas. We wish him well.

Awards

- **Rachel Dowdy**, Data Entry, was honored at a reception for retiring faculty and staff by Chancellor Hurley on April 29, 1998.n

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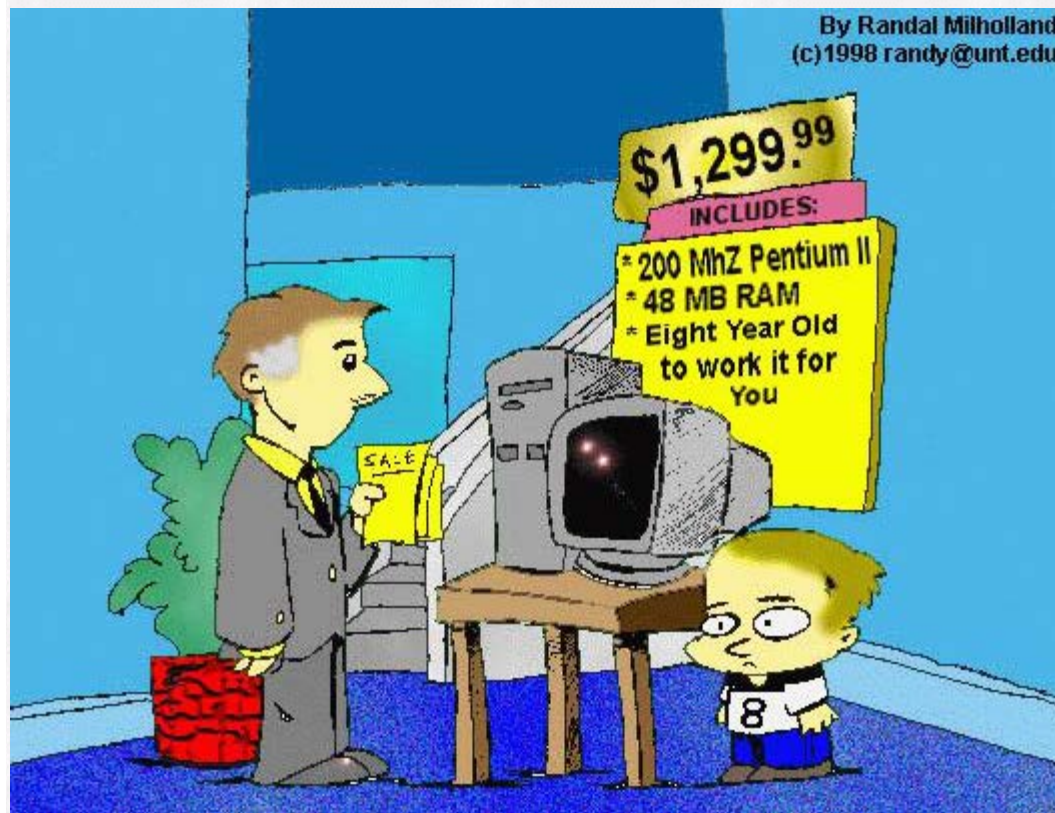
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By [Randal Milholland](#), Documentation Assistant



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